

From Louis Pietig, Advocacy Chair Friends of Sherwood island State Park, Ct resident,  
To: APP Hearing Committee

It must be said that the need for funding of our State Parks is a priority. From a quality of life position, we need to protect and maintain the outdoor spaces that serve and provide the entire population with exercise, recreation and healthy opportunities to enjoy living in Connecticut. It is a stabilizing factor that represents one of the best features Connecticut has to offer its citizens and those who might want to live here.

Our parks are an asset toward attracting those who work and play in the region, as well as offering all the lifestyle that Connecticut has been known to provide . We can not allow this Prime asset to deteriorate due to under funding , or depreciate and then be auctioned off in a false sense of progress.

Please do not dismiss or devalue our parks as inconsequential, as their value cannot simply be measured as profit center. Some of our Gateway parks provide income beyond what they require to be maintained, but the whole Park system is in need of more investment rather than being forced to reduce services and close public facilities and loss of supervision.

Parks should be viewed as an irreplaceable institution that provides first class services, environmental balance, and access for ALL at the lowest cost per capita of any public benefits in the State. Protect and preserve this asset for us all and for our children.

Respectfully,  
Louis D Pietig